

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/506,366	ROKUGO ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Inder P Mehra	2666

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 10/18/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 19-30, 32-33, 31, 34 and 35(Renumbered as 1-17 respectively).
3. The drawings filed on 18 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/18/05.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to Amendment dated 10/18/04. Based on this amendment, claims 19-36 are pending. Claims 19, 22, 27, and 35 have been amended.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David A. Blumenthal on 2/14/05 and Paul Harrity on 2/17/05 to whom this case has been transferred. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims 22, 30, 32 and 35 have been replaced as follows:

22. (Currently Amended) The ATM network system according to Claim 21, wherein: said one of said plurality of user devices includes an initialization confirmation means for transmitting a seventh specific ATM cell which has the specific VPI value and the specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with said device ID for identifying said one of said plurality of user devices on an information field, after initializing its own VPI value, and for receiving an eighth specific ATM cell which has the specific VPI value and the specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID and the proper VPI value on an information field, and holds the proper VPI value as its own VCI value when the device ID loaded in the eighth specific ATM cell is confirmed to be the acquired [[devie]] device ID; and

said network device includes an initialization confirmation response means for transmitting the eighth specific ATM cell in response to the seventh specific ATM cell.

30. (Currently Amended) The VPI value allocation method for an ATM network system including a network device and a plurality of user devices according to Claim 29, which further comprises the steps of:

a seventh transmission step for transmitting a [[seven]] seventh specific ATM cell which has the specific VPI value and the specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID for identifying said one of said plurality of user devices on an information field for notifying an execution of said initialization, from said one of said plurality of user devices towards said network device, after said initializing step;

an eighth transmission step for transmitting in response to the seventh specific ATM cell an eighth specific ATM cell which has the specific VPI value and the specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID and the proper VPI value on an information field from said network device to said user device; and

a receiving step for receiving the eighth specific ATM cell at said user device.

32. (Currently Amended) The VPI allocation method for an ATM network system including a network device and a plurality of user devices according to Claim 29, wherein in said sixth transmission step, said network device transmits in response to the fifth specific ATM cell the sixth specific ATM cell towards all of said user devices which are connected with a channel of said network device.

35. (Currently Amended) A VPI value allocation method for an ATM network system including a network device and a plurality of user devices, which comprises the steps of:

 a connection step for connecting said network device and one of said plurality of user devices;

 acquiring step for acquiring a device ID on first connection from one of said plurality of user devices to said network device; [[and]]

 a sharing step for holding said VPI value in common by communication between said network device and said one of said plurality of user devices using [[a]] an ATM cell which has a specific VPI value and a specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID for identifying said [[user]] one of said plurality of user devices on an information field; and

an initializing step for initializing the VPI value using another ATM cell which has the specific VPI value and the specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID for identifying said one of said plurality of user devices on an information field.

Claim 36 has been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 19-35 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose, teach, or suggest directly or implicitly the following limitations in combination with other limitations of the claims:

As recited by claim 19,

“said one of said plurality of user devices acquires the device ID from the network device on first connection, transmits the first specific ATM cell after the first connection with said network device, receives the second specific ATM cell, and holds the proper VPI value as its own VPI value when the device ID loaded in the second specific ATM cell is confirmed to be the acquired device ID”.

As recited by claim 27,

“ a holding step for holding the proper VPI value as its own VPI value in said one of said plurality of user devices when the device ID loaded in the second specific ATM cell is confirmed to be the acquired device 1D, after receiving the second specific ATM cell.”

AS recited by claim 35’

“a sharing step for holding said VPI value in common by communication between said network device and said one of said plurality of user devices using [[a]] an ATM cell which has a specific VPI value and a specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID for identifying said [[user]] one of said plurality of user devices on an information field; and an initializing step for initializing the VPI value using another ATM cell which has the specific VPI value and the specific VCI value in its header and is loaded with the device ID for identifying said one of said plurality of user devices on an information field”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Inder P Mehra whose telephone number is 571-272-3170. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Inder Pal Mehra
Inder P Mehra
Examiner
Art Unit 2666

2/18/05

